

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
APPLICATION NO. 4-98-334
RAMIREZ CANYON PARK
FIRE MANAGEMENT AND EVACUATION PLAN
MARCH 6, 2000

State of California, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Ramirez Canyon Park
Fire Management and Evacuation Plan
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Fire Management Policies

Public safety is the number one priority of the Fire Management and Evacuation Plan and requirements and policies have been determined accordingly. Special provisions have been made for additional requirements during the months of August, September, October and November due to the significantly increased fire risk during those months (see attachment A).

Operation and maintenance of the site will comply with the State Fire Code.

Fuel Modification/Management Policies

Removal of flammable vegetation and modifying existing ornamental and native fuels within 200' from structures will be regularly undertaken to protect the structures from wildland fires. An effective fuel break extending up to 200' northeast of the Barn House and Peach House has been completed. Within the complex itself various pine and palm trees species will be thinned out and limbed up to 15 to 20 feet above the ground. Palm trees will be pruned not less than once a year; all Pine trees will be removed by 2002, starting with dead or diseased trees.

All structures will conform to a minimum 100 foot clearance standard utilizing State Fire Marshal guidelines. Grass and other vegetation of less than 18 inches high and located more than 30 feet from any building or structure may be maintained to stabilize soil and prevent erosion.

Portions of any tree extending within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe shall be removed as shall any dead or dying portions of trees located to or overhanging any buildings.

Roofs shall be kept free of leaves, needles and any other vegetation. A screen of noncombustible material, with openings of not more than 1/2 inch, will be placed on the outlet of every operating chimney or stovepipe.

Vegetation shall be cut back, thinned out, trimmed up, and dead material removed for a minimum of 10 feet on each side of roadways.

All Oleanders adjacent to roadways shall be removed to provide better access and increased safety and visibility.

Roofs will be kept free of leaves, needles and any other vegetation. A screen of noncombustible material, with openings of not more than 1/2 inch, will be placed on the outlet of every operating chimney or stovepipe.

Flammable ornamentals and non-native vegetation will be removed from the large central island outside the park gates and the area will be maintained in such a condition as to be available as a fire protected "hunkerdown" area for local residents and staging area for fire emergency vehicle parking.

Safety Precautions

All exit doors shall continue to be openable from the inside without the use of key or any special knowledge.

No unpermitted uses of cords or cables is allowed in substitution for properly installed electrical outlets within the buildings and structures, as required in the State Fire Code, Title 19.

Fire extinguishers shall be conspicuously located where they will be readily accessible and immediately available in the event of fire. Extinguishers shall be installed on hangers, brackets or in cabinets. During cooking events, a minimum of 2A and 20BC extinguishers are required and will be located near the cooking setup.

All caterers or other contractors who desire to utilize tents, awnings or other fabric enclosures will be required to show proof that these materials meet the State Fire Code requirements as defined in Title 19, CCR, Chapter 2.

Access roads to the entrance gates of the site will be maintained as required by Los Angeles County Fire Department.

All wood shingle roofing (specifically, a portion of the roof of the Barwood) will be replaced with non-combustible material.

All staff located at Ramirez Canyon Park, as well as all 30 MRCA firefighters will be routinely briefed and trained regarding public safety protection, fire suppression and procedures as they relate to the Ramirez Canyon Park site. Emergency response to a fire threatening the park will be governed by the agency fire "Red Book", appropriate section attached. (Attachment B)

On-Site Fire Protection Equipment

Fire apparatus and supplies located on site will include one fire engine with foam eductor, one eleven horse power pool pump, 125 gallons of class A foam concentrate, 350 feet of 2.5 inch hose, 600 feet of 2 inch, 1200 feet of 1.5 inch, 400 feet of 1 inch and all appropriate nozzles and appliances.

The water capacity maintained on site will total 40,250 gallons - tank capacity totaling 14,500, the pool with 25,000 gallons and the fire engine with 750 gallons. In addition, two water tanks will be placed on site, one of 4,500 gallons, one of 10,000 gallons.

All fire safety equipment shall be properly maintained at all times.
A site map with the location of firefighting equipment and supplies is attached.
(Attachment C)

MRCA Training and Qualifications - Fire personnel are attached. (Attachment D)

Evacuation Policies and Plans

All public access to the site will be canceled during "Red flag" days as designated by fire weather forecasters at the National Weather Service. As a matter of practice, the MRCA is in daily contact with Los Angeles City Fire Department to obtain said designation.

Requirements for use of the site during the high fire season (August, September, October, November), include no special events of more than 150 people during the months of August, September and October and no events of over 40 people in November.

During the months of August, September, October and November, sufficient vehicle capacity for full evacuation of visitors is required on-site at all times.

All special events require the on-site attendance of three staff members. For events smaller than 100 people one ranger is included among the three. For events larger than 100 people two rangers are included. All staff members are trained in evacuation procedures and one is designated at the beginning of each event as the evacuation officer. A ranger will bring a fire patrol vehicle with a slip-on tank to all events of 100 persons or more.

Evacuation of the site will take place when the following conditions have been determined to exist by the MRCA Ranger in charge or the Los Angeles County Fire Department:

1. A wildfire is in progress in the area but is not anticipated to reach the site for at least an hour; or
2. Fire and/or police department personnel have arrived on site requesting evacuation; or
3. A fire has bypassed the area and the road has been surveyed and found safe for passage; or
4. It is determined by the Ranger/Firefighter in charge that, based on existing conditions, evacuation is the safest and most prudent action.

In the event of evacuation, the predesignated evacuation officer will immediately make direct contact with the van drivers of the impending evacuation, provide them with a briefing on the evacuation plan and provide them with direction on the primary and secondary evacuation routes.

The evacuation officer will then notify guests using the amplified sound system that an evacuation will take place and direct them to gather as a group and then walk them single file to the entrance to the lower parking area where they will be loaded into vans. Guests will be instructed to remain in a single file line to facilitate loading and to keep the road clear for incoming emergency vehicles.

The support service personnel (caterers, etc) will remain on site until all guests are evacuated. These personnel then will be instructed to evacuate the site using their service vehicles.

The following conditions will govern whether guests are guided by MRCA or Los Angeles County firefighting personnel to remain on-site in a designated safe area:

1. A wildland fire is burning in the general vicinity towards Ramirez Canyon Park, and is predicted to arrive in less than one hour; or
2. It is determined by the Ranger/Firefighter in charge that, based on existing conditions, remaining in place is the safest and most prudent action; or
3. If it is determined that remaining in place is the safest action then guests shall be directed to remain in place within the Deco House.

In the event of a decision to remain in place, the predesignated evacuation officer will immediately notify guests using the amplified sound system that an emergency is taking place and direct them to gather as a group. They will then be walked in a single file line to the entrance of the Deco House utilizing the front steps. For those guests with disabilities, the handicapped accessible entrance to the house, located on the North side, will be utilized.

The evacuation officer will ensure that service personnel (caterers, drivers, etc) are also notified and that they line up with the guests.

The Deco House shall be maintained as the on-site emergency fire shelter in the event that remaining in place is determined to be the safest and most prudent action. Maintenance of the Deco House shall include keeping the asphalt roof in good repair. All windows within the structure shall be replaced with double paned glass.